

Why Pride Causes Me Problems, Part 1 - 1 Corinthians 4:6-7 – August 24th, 2014

- Today's teaching will be part one of a new series I've titled, "Why Pride Causes Me Problems."
- Actually, you could probably subtitle or re-title it, "Why Pride Causes Me All My Problems," because pride is the source of all my problems.
- Whether it's my pride, or the pride on the part of someone else, or worse yet, both, when you peel the layers back, what you'll find is pride.
- It's been said that pride is at the core of all sin, just as pride was the first sin when Lucifer in his pride sought to exalt himself above God.

Isaiah 14:11-14 NIV All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. (12) How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (13) You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. (14) I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

- One has aptly noted how that the letter "I" is in the center of the word "Pride," and so too is the letter "I" right in the center of the word "sin."
- The point being is that my sin of pride is in the center of, and as such, can become the source of, all of the problems in my Christian life.
- Pride is responsible for more problems in the life of a church collectively and a believer individually than any of us may begin to realize.
- I would suggest that this carnal church there in Corinth was riddled with problems most if not all of which were caused by their sin of pride.

James 4:1-10 NIV What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (2) You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. (3) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (4) You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. (5) Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? (6) But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (7) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

- Enter our text today, where Paul, by way of a scathing rebuke to these carnal Corinthian Christians, puts his finger on their pride problems.

1. Pride propels me beyond what's Biblical (Verse 6a)

(6a) Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written."

-v6a Paul says he's applied these things to himself and Apollos for their benefit so they'll learn what not going beyond what's written means.

- What Paul is saying here is that pride has the propensity to propel us beyond that which is Biblical under the banner of our own arrogance.
- Such was the case with the Corinthian church, in the sense that they had pushed the Biblical envelope, as it were, to an unbiblical end.

2. Pride deceives me to think I'm better than others (Verse 6b)

(6b) ... Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.

-v6b Paul goes on to say that when they don't go beyond what's Biblical, only then will they not take pride in one man over against another.

- This is textbook when it comes to pride, such that pride will deceive me to believe that I am over another and even better than another.
- By way of illustration, pride is like a computer virus disabling the antivirus software and corrupting the entire hard drive of my Christian life.

3. Pride causes me to boast in my accomplishments (Verse 7)

(7) For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

-v7 Paul rebukes them for their boasting as if they were different from everyone else thinking that what they had received wasn't from God.

- In other words, in their pride and arrogance they believed what they had was because of them, and not the Lord, Who had given it to them.
- It's interesting to note how that Paul asks them three rhetorical questions, all of which get right to the heart of the matter concerning pride.
- The first question is, "Who makes you different from anyone else?" This question gets to the heart of how we're all sinners saved by grace.
- The second question is, "What do you have that you did not receive?" This question gets to the heart of how everything comes from God.
- The third question is, "Why do you boast as though you did not receive it?" This question gets to the heart of how no one can ever boast.

I like how one commentator put it, "These three questions should prompt other questions in my heart: do I truly give God the credit for my salvation? Do I live with a spirit of humble gratitude? Seeing that I have received from God, what can I give to Him?"

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— (9) not by works, so that no one can boast.

- Here's the bottom line in closing when we are harboring an attitude of pride we are never more like the devil, which is why God hates pride.

Proverbs 8:13 NIV To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 21:24 NIV The proud and arrogant man—"Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.

Proverbs 29:23 NIV A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.